

PANORAMIC REVIEW OF THE YEAR 1902

Happenings of Importance During The Twelve Months Just Ended.

Coal Strike the Event of the Year of the Most Far-Reach- ing Importance—Public Sentiment Thoroughly Aroused Over the Controversy.

The year of 1902 opened with the assured certainty of the early coming of peace in the Philippines and South Africa, and with the date for the establishment of an independent government in Cuba already determined; the Congress of the United States was rapidly approaching the favorable determination of its great problem of the construction of an isthmian ship canal, and abroad Germany and England were almost ready for combined action against Venezuela in the matter of the same debt claims which in the concluding day of the year have been the cause for a new strain in the interpretation of the Monroe doctrine.

But as the outcome proved, not even the greatest of these matters possessed for the people of the United States such vital importance as another event, which was far from being foreseen at the time, and which, when it came, gave at the start little reason to suspect what its course and conclusion would be. This was the great strike in the anthracite coal mines of Pennsylvania, which lasted through the summer and fall.

It was not merely that this was one of the greatest strikes in the history of the United States for the number of men engaged, the length of its duration and the obstinacy with which it was fought; nor was it because of the mere fact of the inconvenience and loss occasioned by it to the public; nor yet because of the settlement of the President of the United States was forced to take control of the situation by acting in a manner for which there was nothing in the constitution or customs of the land to give justification.

Beyond all these things the strike was the most pregnant event of the year, because of the way it crystallized sentiment on the part of that great body of the American public—the consumers—who were concerned in it neither as employers nor as laborers, but who were forced by the jeopardizing of their own interests as consumers, to intervene for their own protection.

The strike began May 12, and the miners did not yield an inch in their resolution until they voted to return to work Oct. 21, after arbitration had been arranged for. The number of men involved was 147,000. The price of hard coal in New York, where the factories were accustomed to no other fuel, rose from \$3 to as high as \$20 a ton, with often no supplies to be had. The demand of the miners was in part for higher wages, but still more for a regulated and fair method of weighing and recording the product of the men, by which the union, acting as an organization, could protect its members' interests.

The mine owners, organized in the most thorough monopoly in the country, and represented by the presidents of the coal carrying railroads, seemed to have no intention of conceding to the strikers, and contemptuously declined all proposals of arbitration, from whatever source. Whether their attitude was dictated by a desire to obtain larger holdings of stock in a demoralized market or to make possible permanent higher prices for coal, or from a deep antagonism to organized labor, was a matter only for speculation on the part of outsiders.

Through the strike there has risen as one of the greatest among the great figures of Americans of the year the name of John Mitchell, the young leader of the Mine Workers' Union, who June 17, at Indianapolis, prevented the bituminous coal miners from striking in sympathy, who carried on the strike with less accompanying violence than was ever known in so great industrial disorganization before, and who, despite great personal aggression from his opponents' methods, maintained a serenity that helped not a little to the ultimate progress which he made to ultimate victory.

With the finding of President Roosevelt's commission of arbitration next spring will come the end, as far as its immediate incidents are concerned, of an industrial struggle that would never have begun had the representatives of capital showed themselves as true to their agreements and as intelligent in their views as did the representatives of labor.

Independence of Cuba.

Of the two great events of the year in connection with the treatment by the United States of the islands that fell under its influence as a result of the Spanish war, the first was the inauguration of independent government in Cuba. The Cuban independence day, when President Palma took control of the executive office, was May 20, just three days after young Alfonso attained his majority and became king of Spain in fact. The popular election had been held Dec. 21, 1901, and the elected chief of state had chosen the island's president Feb. 24. The American military governor, Gen. Leonard Wood, lowered the American flag and left the island to its own resources.

Peace in the Philippines.

The Philippine Islands were declared by proclamation of the President July 4, to be in a state of peace and quiet and worthy of the establishment of the civil in place of military government, for which Congress had provided. With this went a proclamation of amnesty to political offenders and civil administration began.

The Year's Legislation.

Of national legislation during the year there was none of more importance to either the commerce or the naval power of the country than that authorizing the construction of an isthmian canal. After much discussion of the relative merits of the Panama and the Nicaraguan routes, Congress made provision for a \$200,000,000 bond issue and passed a law which gave President Roosevelt the power to decide upon the route.

Of other legislation the passage of the national irrigation act, turning over the revenues from the national domain for the use of a comprehensive scheme of irrigation, and the creation of a permanent census bureau are to be noted. To relieve the congestion of an ever-accumulating surplus, Congress removed the last of the war revenue taxes and passed the largest river and harbor bill in the country's history—appropriating \$65,000,000. A 10-cent a pound tax on colored oleomargarine, so heavy as practically to cut that industry in half, was imposed.

End of the Boer War.

The Boer war was brought to an end May 31 by the signing at Pretoria by

the Boer representatives, together with Lord Kitchener and Milner, of a document embodying terms of surrender.

The Boers' persistence in the conflict had won for them the conditions on which they had insisted when they were ready to yield more than a year before. They had not been holding out for independence, but for clemency for their leaders and for the return to South Africa of the Boer prisoners on English islands. They gained these things and also the gift of \$15,000,000 in cash to be used in the restoration of their agriculture, and promises of further loans as they needed them, together with the assurance that self-government on colonial lines would be rapidly granted them.

The Venezuela Imbroglio.

At the beginning of the year Germany and England were acting in harmony on a plan to compel Venezuela to pay a few millions of debts due their subjects. It was understood that they had given the United States assurances that they would not in any way overstep the limits set by the United States in the Monroe doctrine. Their plans were dropped during the spring and summer,

however, while President Castro of Venezuela found himself busy in suppressing a rather more than usually pretentious revolution. In the last month of the year German and English fleets suddenly appeared off Venezuelan ports, sank Venezuelan ships and announced their intention to blockade the ports and seize the customs to make good the debts.

Arbitration at The Hague was not wanted by the European powers, as they feared Castro would pay no heed to a decision against him, and for that reason a proposal was made to President Roosevelt to become the arbitrator. The vital feature of this demand was that it sought to impose on the United States some responsibility under the Monroe doctrine, along with the authority admitted to it. Upon the refusal of President Roosevelt to act as arbitrator the allied powers finally yielded to his urgent suggestion that the matters at issue be referred to The Hague tribunal for settlement.

Matters of General Interest.

Of matters of other than political or industrial import during the year two which will be at once thought of are Carnegie's \$10,000,000 gift to the Carnegie Institution for the fostering of scientific research and investigation and Cecil Rhodes' great gift of his fortune by will. The sending of the first wireless message across the ocean by the Marconi system was one of the great achievements of the year. The first signals were sent in August from Nova Scotia to Cornwall, but in December they were followed by complete messages from Lord Minto, governor general of Canada,

to King Edward and to the king of Italy. In the matter of the navigation of the air some progress was made, as notably when Stanley Spencer sailed thirty miles across London in September.

The year witnessed one of the greatest disasters in history during the volcanic activity in the West Indian islands, when Mont Pelee's eruption on Martinique killed, with a handful of exceptions, every living being of the city of St. Pierre, 40,000 souls. The response of America to the story of suffering was such a prompt creation of both government and private relief funds as to add an additional great surprise to the many the United States has given to the world in the last few years.

Decrease in Lynchings.

The lynchings reported in 1902 show a most gratifying decrease, being but ninety-six as compared with 133 in 1901. Of these lynchings eighty-seven occurred in the South and nine in the North. Of the total number eighty-six were negroes, nine whites and one Indian. One woman was lynched in South Carolina.

Fire Losses in 1902.

The total fire losses of 1902 will be about \$154,000,000, which is an improvement in the situation as compared with 1901. The decrease in the fire waste would have been still more marked but for several large fires in December. The losses this year of \$100,000 and upwards reached a total of \$16,620,000.

Disasters in the United States.

The following table gives the loss of life resulting from disasters of various

20—Edwin Lawrence Godkin died.	26—Cyclone in St. Louis; 500 killed.
21—Bradbury piano works, Brooklyn, killed.	27—Railroad wreck Aricux, France; 23 killed.
22—Anne Clarke died, Chicago.	28—Fire Stockton, Cal.; \$500,000 loss.
23—Mine explosion Fernie, B. C.; 175 lives.	29—Emile Zola died, Paris.
24—Rochambeau statue unveiled, Washington.	
25—Lord Pauncefote died, Washington.	OCTOBER.
26—Benjamin Constant, French painter, died.	1—Admiral Joubert died, Maryland.
27—Boer war ended; two years seven months twenty days.	1—Roosevelt summoned coal barons.
	1—Schooner Sybil lost at sea; 100 lives.
JUNE.	1—Steamer Quirang lost at sea; 30 lives.
3—Philippine government bill through senate.	1—White House coal conference.
3—Rev. John H. Barrows died, Ohio.	1—Pennsylvania militia all ordered out.
4—Ard Patrick won the Derby.	7—Ex-Congressman Grout died, Vermont.
5—Volcanic eruption, Guatemala; 1,000 lives.	8—Miners voted to continue idle.
7—M. Combes, premier of France.	9—Mine accident Black Diamond, Washington; 17 lives.
7—Amnesty for Americans, Cuba.	9—Coal conference, New York.
8—Rev. G. H. Hepworth died, New York.	12—Coal barons come to terms.
8—Anti-anarchy bill passed, house.	12—Lipton's challenge arrived.
9—President Patton, Princeton, resigned.	15—Coal commission named.
11—West Point centennial.	15—Admiral Selfridge died, Waverley.
12—Fire Alexander City, Ala.; \$750,000 loss.	15—Another eruption of Soufriere.
13—King Albert of Saxony died.	15—Glucose works burned, Chicago; 11 lives.
13—William West, minister, died.	16—Miners' convention called.
13—Senate ratified Danish treaty.	17—Kitchener to command, India.
17—War revenue reduction passed.	18—Castro won 7-days' battle.
18—Rev. Newman Hall died, London.	19—Fire Albany, N. Y.; \$500,000 loss.
18—Kellough sanitarium, Battle Creek, burned; \$455,000 loss.	21—Coal strike declared off.
20—Troops shot rioters, Barcelona.	22—Denmark refused to sell islands.
20—Fire New York city; \$750,000 loss.	23—Coal mining resumed.
21—Bishop Latane, Baltimore, died.	23—Congressman Russell of Connecticut died.
22—Perk Ave hotel burned, New York.	24—Coal commission at work.
22—"Billy" Emerson died, Boston.	25—W. Wilson, pres. of Princeton.
23—Miss Stone freed by brigands.	26—Frank Norris, author, died.
23—Prince Henry reached New York.	26—Elizabeth Cadby Stanton died, New York.
24—Boers captured a convoy.	27—Prince Albert, one-half mile, 57½%.
24—Prince Henry at White House.	27—Volcanic eruption, Guatemala; 7,000 lives.
25—Kaiser's yacht launched.	28—British cable around world.
25—Ship Jules Jean Baptiste lost; 80 lives.	
26—Victor Hugo centenary, Paris.	NOVEMBER.
27—McKinley memorial service, Wash.	2—St. Pierre, Martinique, burned.
	2—Steamer Enero lost off English coast; 22 lives.
MARCH.	4—Fireworks explosion Madison Square, New York; 15 lives.
2—Francis W. Parker died, Miss.	8—Bond-Hay treaty signed.
4—Philippine tariff passed, house.	8—Judge Nathan Webb died, Maine.
4—Congressman Polk, Penn., died.	10—Spanish cabinet resigned.
7—Gen. J. J. Estey died, Vermont.	11—R. M. Field died, Boston.
7—Boers captured Gen. Methuen.	11—Molneux acquitted, New York.
11—Prince Henry left United States.	12—Railroad raised wages.
12—John P. Altgeld died, Illinois.	14—Buller explosion—Swift's packing house, Chicago; 15 lives.
13—Gen. P. Martin died, Boston.	14—Roosevelt hunted bear, Mississippi.
13—Gen. Methuen freed by Boers.	15—Shots fired at King Leopold.
15—Wages advanced 10 per cent, Fall River.	15—P. O. Vickery died, Maine.
17—Life savers drowned, Monomoy; 7 lives.	16—Armour packing plant, Sioux City, burned; loss, \$900,000.
17—Ship subsidy passed, senate.	17—Building cup defender, Bristol.
18—Fire Hoboken, N. J.; \$1,000,000 loss.	21—Peace in Colombia.
20—Judge Noah Davis died, N. Y.	21—Steamer sunk in Danube; 20 lives.
22—Judge Taft of Vermont died.	21—Wisconsin Central ore docks, Ashland, Wis., burned; loss, \$250,000.
24—Maj. Gen. Otis retired.	22—Herr Krupp died, Germany.
25—Cecil Rhodes died, South Africa.	24—Riots in Havana.
	25—Thos. P. Oehlert died, Virginia.
APRIL.	27—Cattle embargo, New England.
1—Thos. Dunn English died, N. J.	27—Steamer Sylvanus J. Macy lost, Lake Erie; 15 lives.
3—12 hotels burned, Atlantic City; \$1,000,000 loss.	27—Steamer Bannockburn lost, Lake Superior; 20 lives.
11—Boer war 2½ years old.	28—Rev. Joseph Parker died, London.
11—Gen. Wade Hampton died, S. C.	
12—Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage died, Washington.	DECEMBER.
13—Cuban reciprocity passed, house.	2—Holmes for United States Supreme court bench.
13—Guatemala earthquake; 2,000 dead.	2—Message to Congress on trusts.
13—Morgan steamship trust launched.	4—Minister Buck died, Japan.
20—Frank R. Stockton died, Washington.	4—Sivela, premier of Spain.
20—Steamer City of Pittsburgh lost; 70 lives.	6—Alice Freeman Palmer died, Paris.
20—Fire Dallas, Texas; \$400,000 loss.	7—Thos. Nast died, Ecuador.
27—Archbishop Williams died, aged 80.	7—Thos. B. Reed died, Washington.
27—J. Sterling Morton died, Chicago.	8—Ultimatum to Venezuela.
27—Fire Glens Falls, N. Y.; \$500,000 loss.	9—Venezuelan ships sunk.
28—Sol Smith Russell died, Washington.	9—Castro arrested foreigners.
	9—Fire Atlanta, Ga.; loss \$1,000,000.
MAY.	13—Puerto Cabello bombarded.
1—W. H. Moody, secretary of navy.	13—American sheet steel plant, Canal Dover, Ohio, burned; loss \$1,020,000.
2—Amos J. Cummings of New York died.	14—Mrs. U. S. Grant died, Washington.
4—Potter Palmer died, Chicago.	14—Laying new Pacific cable.
5—Archbishop Corrigan died, New York.	20—Venezuelan ports blockaded.
5—Bret Harte died, London.	20—Humbert family, French swindlers, arrested in Madrid.
6—Admiral Sampson died, Washington.	20—Arbitration expected, Venezuela.
6—Fire New Milford, Conn.; \$500,000 loss.	21—Wireless message across Atlantic.
8—Paul Ford, author, killed, New York.	21—Dr. Temple, archbishop of Canterbury, died.
8—St. Pierre destroyed by volcano; 40,000 lives.	23—Railroad collision Byron, Cal.; 15 lives.
8—Volcanic eruption, St. Vincent; 2,000 lives.	26—Mary Hartwell Catherwood, novelist, died.
12—Coal strike began.	27—Storm Copenhagen, Denmark; 12 lives.
12—Explosion naphtha, Pittsburg; 23 killed.	27—Railroad collision Weststead, Ont.; 23 lives.
12—Steamer Camarta lost, Bay of Bengal; 730 lives.	30—Advertiser printing plant, Battle Creek, Mich., burned; loss, \$500,000.
17—Alfonso XIII crowned, Spain.	31—Castro agrees to arbitration Hague tribunal.
17—\$400,000 fire, Houlton, Me.	
18—Fernando in Texas; 100 dead.	
18—Bishop Taylor died, California.	
18—Mine explosion Fraterville, Tenn.; 200 killed.	
20—Natal day, republic of Cuba.	
20—Palma, president of Cuba.	

Terrible Disaster at Martinique the Most Appalling Calamity.

kinds in this country during 1902 as reported: Fires 1,540 Mines 648 Drowning 2,008 Cyclones and Explosions 626 Storms 481 Falling Build. Lightning 206 Ings, etc. 419 Electricity 121

Trusts Formed During the Year.

New trusts, with a total capital of almost \$4,000,000,000, were formed during 1902. Of this vast capital over seven-eighths, or approximately \$3,700,000,000, was the capital of the combines formed in New Jersey, New York, Delaware and Maine. The other companies were scattered over all the other states. The total is only about \$300,000,000 below the incorporations of 1901, when the billion dollar steel trust and the \$400,000,000 Northern Securities Company were formed.

King Edward's Coronation.

What was expected to have been the most gorgeous spectacle of modern times was the coronation of King Edward VII. of England at Westminster Abbey on June 26. In anticipation of the event the British Empire had been preparing be-

Legislation of Importance Deal With by Congress—Shadow Cast by the Venezuelan Embroglio About to Be Lifted—End of Boer War.

fore 1902 began and the end of the Boer war was even more welcome, because it enabled Edward to don his crown in a time of perfect peace. As the days drew near the Ambassadors from the farthest ends of the earth came to London, already overcrowded by visitors from all lands. The ceremonies, retaining nearly all the medieval formalities, were carefully planned and minutely rehearsed, while the public rushed eagerly to buy seats erected along the line of march and the nobility of the realm concerned themselves by the ceremony in the Abbey. The king came up to London in very ill health. On the 24th of June he took to his bed, and on the following day a coterie of the most eminent physicians and surgeons of the realm determined that an operation was necessary to save him from death of an ailment closely resembling appendicitis. On the 26th Sir Frederick Treves performed the operation, and for many days the king hovered between life and death. Coronation gayer gave place to gloom, thousands of visitors, including some of the ambassadors, returned home. Hundreds of tradesmen who had anticipated large profits found themselves impoverished, and an expectant sadness prevailed throughout the empire. Slowly, however, the king began to improve, and on August 9 the ceremony took place.

Religious Movements in 1902.

There has been perhaps nothing more striking in the religious history of the year just closed than the disposition of religious bodies of different names to "get together" in the practical prosecution of their work. Nothing decisive has yet come of the movement for a union of the Methodist churches North and South, nor of the Northern and Southern Presbyterians, but progress has been made. The project of bringing together the Congregationalists, the Methodist protestants and the United Brethren has made hopeful advance.

Finally, the year has been one of generous giving. The most remarkable single instance is found in the Methodist church. Three years ago, on "watch night," there went out from a Springfield church a call for a twenty-million-dollar fund for the development of Methodist religious and educational work. Dec. 21, in the same church, to the people assembled to watch out the Old Year was made the official announcement of the completion of this noble fund. It is a great achievement, which fittingly crowns the closing year.

The November Elections.

The general elections of November 4 resulted in the election of the Fifty-eighth Congress as follows: Republicans, 208; Democrats, 178.

November 4.—Of the states in which United States Senators are to be chosen the following elected Republican legislatures: California, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wisconsin. Democratic legislatures were chosen in Colorado, Florida, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina and South Carolina.

The following state governors were elected: Alabama, William D. Jelks* (Dem.); California, Dr. George C. Pardee (Rep.); Colorado, James H. Peabody (Rep.); Connecticut, Abram Chamberlain (Rep.); Idaho, John T. Morrison (Rep.); Kansas, Willis J. Bailey (Rep.); Massachusetts, John L. Bates (Rep.); Michigan, Aaron T. Bliss* (Rep.); Minnesota, Samuel R. Van Sant* (Rep.); Nebraska, John H. Mickey (Rep.); Nevada, John Sparks (Dem. Silver); New Hampshire, Nahum J. Bacheelder (Rep.); New York, Benjamin B. Odell, Jr.* (Rep.); North Dakota, Frank White* (Rep.); Pennsylvania, Samuel W. Pennypacker (Rep.); Rhode Island, Dr. L. C. Garvin (Dem.); South Carolina, Duncan C. Heyward (Dem.); South Dakota, Charles N. Herrell* (Rep.); Tennessee, James B. Frazier (Dem.); Texas, Samuel W. T. Lanham (Dem.); Wisconsin, Robert M. La Follette* (Rep.); Wyoming, Dr. Forest Richards* (Rep.).

*Re-elected.

New York City gave a Democratic plurality of 121,000.

Prince Henry's Visit.

Four days later and on the same day Mrs. Stone was released, February 23, Prince Henry of Prussia, brother of Kaiser William of Germany, landed in New York, and as the nation's guest was accorded a grander welcome than ever given a foreign visitor. He came to represent his brother at the launching of his yacht, the Meteor, built by an American firm and christened by Miss Alice Roosevelt at Shooter's Island, New York, February 25. On the 27th the Prince, his suite and the diplomatic corps at Washington attended a session of both Houses of Congress in the Senate Chamber, at which Secretary of State Hay delivered his memorial address in eulogy of the late President McKinley. During the remainder of his visit the Prince's special train bore him westward, as far as St. Louis, Milwaukee and Chicago, south as far as Chattanooga, where a brief but enthusiastic welcome awaited him at every stop. He sailed for home on March 10, leaving a pleasant impression of himself behind and bearing with him a favorable idea of America.

Troubles in China.

To the story of 1901 belongs the bloody "Boxer" outrages and the retributive occupation of Tien-Tsin and Peking by the allied forces of Russia, England, Germany, France, Austria, United States, Italy and Japan. The flight of the Empress Dowager with her grandson, the Emperor, and the rest of the Chinese court and the tedious negotiations attending the settlement occurred in the preceding year, but it was not until January 7 that the remarkable woman who dominates the government of China returned to Peking. With all show of graciousness and reassuring messages to the foreign diplomatic court reassembled within the Forbidden City, arrangements were made for the payment of the indemnities to the powers and a withdrawal of the allied soldiers was discussed. This evacuation was delayed because of fear created by Russia's attitude in Manchuria.